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ALASKA BEARS STILL HAVE LEGAL PROTECTION

Misconception as to Open Seasons and Restrictions on Hunting Corrected by Biological Survey

Erroneous statements regarding the open seasons on large brown and grizzly bears in Alaska have appeared in two recent articles in the press of the country, according to the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the bureau has made the following announcement to correct otherwise misleading impressions:

A recent review of the new amendments to the regulations under the Alaska Game Law, which become effective on July 1, included a statement from which it may be inferred that non-residents of Alaska may hunt large brown and grizzly bears at any season of the year except in restricted areas. This may be misleading to those who are contemplating going to the Territory to hunt after July 1. The open season for non-residents for hunting these big game animals throughout Alaska is from September 1 to June 20. In certain areas along the Gulf of Alaska and on the Alaska Peninsula residents of Alaska are restricted to the season September 1 to June 20, but elsewhere in the Territory after July 1 they will be permitted to hunt these bears at any time of the year.

The other misleading statement appeared in an article by a well-known writer in the April 12 issue of a popular weekly magazine of nation-wide circulation. In this it was alleged that all restrictions on the killing of big brown bears at any season have been removed.

For the information of the public, the Biological Survey furnishes the following text of the new regulations on the open season on large brown and grizzly bears throughout the Territory:

For a nonresident, September 1 to June 20.

For a resident, no close season, except in the following described areas, where the open season shall be September 1 to June 20: (1) The drainage to the Gulf of Alaska from the west shore of Glacier Bay to the Alsek River; (2) the drainage to the Gulf of Alaska from the west shore of Yakutat Bay and the west edge of Hubbard Glacier to the Bering River; (3) the drainage to the west side of Cook Inlet between the west bank of the Susitna River to its confluence with the Yentna River, thence along the west bank of the Yantna River to its confluence with the Skwentna River, thence along the south bank of the Skwentna River to the summit of the Alaska Range, and the old portage from Kakhonak Bay on Iliamna Lake to Kamishak Bay; (4) all of the Alaska Peninsula south and west of the Kvichak River. Iliamna Lake and the old portage from Kakhonak Bay to Kamishak Bay; (5) and the following-named islands-Hawkins, Hinchinbrook, Montague, Yacobi, and Shuyak; provided, that in these areas a resident may kill a large brown and grizzly bear at any time or place when such animal is about to attack or molest persons or property.

Non-residents of the Territory are limited to two of these bears a season, and residents are similarly limited in the restricted areas along the Gulf of Alaska and the Alaska Peninsual, unless it becomes necessary to kill in defense of persons or property.

The big brown and grizaly bears are increasing in numbers on Unimak Island, a large island maintained as a reservation for caribou, and also for these bears within the Aleutian Islands Reservation, where the animals are protected at all times.